

Reply to: 2610 Cooperative Relations
Subject: Salt Creek Feasibility Meeting
To: District Ranger and Meeting Participants

April 7, 1983


On March 16, 1983, representatives of the Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) met to discuss the proposed enhancement of Salt Creek, at the head of George Inlet. In attendance were Paul Novak, Don House, Don Siedleman of ADF&G, and Mike Pease, Gene Stagner, Paul Tappel, and Bryce Rickel of the Forest Service. Following are the items discussed:

1. A brief review of the past activities and surveys were presented. In 1982, all but 4 miles of the system were surveyed. During the time of the survey, it was noted that at certain flows, coho were able to negotiate the falls. It was also determined that coho were using the upper reaches for rearing. Sockeye have been observed in the past, but the size of the run and the ability to negotiate the falls are unknown.
2. Don House, representing Commercial Fish Management Division (ADF&G), commented that there would be an objection to enhancing the system for pinks and chums due to possible competition between these species and the existing coho. The status of sockeye in the creek is unknown, but there would probably be no commercial fishery concerns in having sockeye as a target species.
3. Paul Novak suggested that chinook would be a possible target species for Salt Creek. The possibility of chinook enhancement will require further investigation, particularly to determine if the creek has the appropriate temperatures required by chinook for spawning.
4. All present was in the opinion that the enhancement of Salt Creek would be in compliance with the Comprehensive Salmon Plan.
5. Paul Tappel reviewed an Invest III analysis that had been run, showing that enhancing Salt Creek could be very beneficial. The threshold of a discounted benefit for breaking even would be an expenditure of approximately \$700,000.00, depending on the composition of the run.
6. The additional surveying and data needs were discussed. The remaining four miles of stream should be surveyed. A monitoring program to determine the flow regimen of the system and to determine at what flows fish are making it over the falls should be implemented. Since the status of the sport fisheries and of the sockeye is not known, lake surveys should be conducted. Population estimate of rearing coho should be made to analyze how fully the habitat is being utilized. Stream temperatures should be monitored to determine suitability for chinooks. All of this work should be completed this field season by the Forest Service.

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It was the consonance of those in attendance that Salt Creek has the potential of being a worthy enhancement project and warrents a continuation of the feasibility studies.


Bryce Rickel
Fishery Biologist, KRD

cc: Mike Pease, Gene Stagner, Paul Tappel. FS
Paul Navak, Don Siedleman, Don House ADF&G